Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/764,184	MEANEY ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Nicholas D. Rosen	3625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *the amendment of January 31, 2008*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1-9 and 14*.

3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
   a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
      1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .
      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

   * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
   (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
   (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

   Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☒ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

/Nicholas D. Rosen/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3625

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-9 and 14 have been examined.

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with attorney James Bell on February 22, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1 is hereby amended to read:

A method of manufacturing an item of build-to-order equipment having at least one hardware component bearing a unique component ID in software readable form, comprising:

generating a digital system trackcode which defines the hardware and software configuration of the item;

storing the system trackcode in association with the component ID in a non-specific external storage medium such that the component ID can be used as a key to retrieve the associated system trackcode; and

at least at one stage of manufacture reading the component ID from the one component and using it to retrieve the associated system trackcode from the external storage medium.

Claim 5 is hereby amended to read:

The method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising:

generating at least at one stage of manufacture a hardware signature uniquely related to a particular set of hardware components then incorporated in the item; and

storing the hardware signature in association with the system trackcode in the non-specific external storage medium.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-8 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The closest prior art of record, Mukherjee et al. (EP 0 520 923 A2), discloses a method of manufacturing an item of build-to-order equipment having at least one hardware component bearing an identifier ("component ID"), comprising: generating a digital identifier ("system trackcode") which defines the configuration of the item (Abstract; Figures 4 and 5; column 5, line 42, through column 6, line 54). Other prior art is similarly relevant, e.g., Amberg et al. (GB 2 353 373 A), which is concerned with a build-to-order computer system (see especially page 8, lines 6-33). Neither Mukherjee, Amberg, nor any other prior art of record discloses storing the system trackcode in

association with the component ID in a non-specific external storage medium such that the component ID can be used as a key to retrieve the associated system trackcode; and at least at one stage of manufacture reading the component ID from the one component and using it to retrieve the associated system trackcode from the external storage medium. It is well known to read information (as by scanning a barcode, or simply by reading, e.g., a printed or engraved number on a component), and it is known to store information and use it to retrieve related information, as taught, for example, by Chen et al. (U.S. Patent 7,073,050) (see especially column 4, lines 29-36; column 5, lines 48-59; column 7, lines 14-25). However, Chen discloses gathering and maintaining information on the various components of a piece of equipment; neither Chen nor any other prior art of record discloses, teaches, or reasonably suggests reading the component ID from a component and using it to retrieve the system trackcode (identifier) for an item of equipment whose includes the component.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Claims 9 and 14 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The closest prior art of record, Amberg et al. (GB 2 353 373 A), discloses a method of building an information handling system (IHS) to conform to a custom order (Abstract; page 5, lines

6-15), comprising: deriving a system trackcode from a custom order (page 8, lines 6-15); associating the system trackcode with component identifiers in a database (page 8, lines 6-33); powering up the IHS after building the IHS (implied by page 6, lines 22-29); and retrieving the component identifier and the system trackcode by means of manufacturing software (Figures 3A and 3B; page 9, lines 1-19; page 10, lines 1-12). Amberg does not disclose writing the system trackcode to a CMOS in the IHS, but the Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary teaches computers having CMOS's storing parameter values for the computers (page 95, definition of CMOS, sense 2), implying that the information would have to have been written to the CMOS's at some point.

Amberg discloses the manufacturing system later reading the system trackcode (e.g., page 18, lines 5-10), although not from the IHS. However, given storing parameter values in the CMOS of a computer (IHS), as taught by the Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary, it would have been obvious to read data from the IHS. Amberg does not disclose scanning a hardware component to derive a component identifier, but it is well known to scan items to derive their identifiers (e.g., scanning barcodes). Amberg discloses generating a unique identifier associated with the trackcode (page 8, lines 6-15); this can be called a HW SIG. Amberg discloses retrieving the trackcode from the database (e.g., page 18, lines 5-10), and discloses generating a current HW SIG (page 28, lines 28-33). Amberg discloses retrieving what can be a current HW SIG (page 18, lines 5-10); powering up is implied as noted above. However, neither Amberg any other prior art of record nor retrieving the unique HW SIG from the database using the trackcode; and comparing the unique identifier HW SIG against the current HW SIG.

It is known to compare present and earlier versions of a file, but this is not held to be sufficient to make the particulars of claim 13 obvious, given a lack of teaching in Amberg or any other analogous art of record to perform such a comparison of HW SIG's.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nicholas D. Rosen, whose telephone number is 571-272-6762. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM, M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey A. Smith, can be reached on 571-272-6763. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Non-official/draft communications can be faxed to the examiner at 571-273-6762.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Nicholas D. Rosen/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3625
February 22, 2008